GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:295
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
PERCAPITA AVAILABILITY OF WATER
Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether per capita availability of water is decreasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has carried out any district-wise survey in the country in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(e) the steps taken for identification of new water resources in the country alongwith the outcome thereof, State-wise; and

(f) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the availability of water in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability for the country as a whole has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). The increase in population results in decline in per capita water availability. In 1951, the per capita water availability was 5177 cubic meter. On the basis of population indicated in 2001 census, the per capita water availability worked out to be 1820 cubic meter.

(c) District wise survey has not been made in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) & (f) With a view to augment the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.